

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Avery**

The Avery County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Workshop on April 30, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Avery County Administrative Complex, Newland, NC 28657.

Members Present: Kenny Poteat, Chairman; Phyllis Forbes, Vice-Chairman; Scott Heath; Martha Hicks; Glenn Johnson

Members Absent: None

Call To Order

Chairman Poteat called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Chairman Poteat stated that at the County Assembly Day in Raleigh yesterday that it was indicated things were very bleak on the State's front.

Chairman Poteat led prayer.

Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget

Robert Wiseman, County Manager, explained that today's meeting is to show the overall budget and not to get in to detail today. He stated that there are several big issues that would need to be considered very seriously. He also stated that all of the allocations for nonprofits are the same as last year. The County Manager said that Avery County is very "lucky" because Avery County is in pretty good shape and are not facing any layoffs at this time.

Chairman Poteat advised that some of the things he has been reading is saying that the picture for the state of North Carolina is very bleak and the February sales tax revenue for the State was the lowest it has ever been. He stated that some counties were even decreasing every department by 10%.

Tim Greene, Finance Officer, stated that the budget is not complete at this time and the budget ordinance is partially complete. The Finance Officer explained some of the requests that the departments had made and the reason that these requests have been cut. He stated that the budget is balanced. The County Manager said that the balanced budget is at the existing tax rate of 35 cents. The Finance Officer advised that the budget was based on a 94% tax collection rate this year when in previous years it had been budgeted at 96% tax collection rate. He stated that he had budgeted 6-7% less for the sales tax revenue.

Glenn Johnson asked how much the revenue for inspections was down. The Finance Officer answered that inspections and register of deeds revenue was down about 40-50%.

The Finance Officer stated that there was no cost of living increases budgeted in the 2009/2010 budget. He also said that the tentative budget he has given the Board today is not a detailed line item budget but does show the salaries and benefits, other operating and capital. The County Manager stated that the classification and pay plan is the basis for the salary scale and takes the elected officials out of the picture as far as the salaries are concerned.

Discussion regarding the budget and the capital budget cuts.

The Finance Officer advised that at this time the Board of Education had not submitted their budget for the 2009/2010 year. He did say that all special appropriations had been budgeted the same amount as was budgeted last year.

Discussion regarding the Toe River Health District.

Chairman Poteat stated that it was wonderful news that Avery County can keep things budgeted the same as last year or even a slight increase.

The next budget workshop will be May 6, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Phyllis Forbes and second by Glenn Johnson to adjourn this meeting at 6:25 p.m.

**Kenny Poteat, Chairman
Avery County Board of Education**

ATTEST: _____
Cindy Turbyfill, Clerk